

J U L Y

1

CANADA DAY

Canada's national day, la Fête du Canada.

3

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER BEGIN

Ruled by Sirius, the Dog Star, these often hottest days of summer run to August 11.

4

INDEPENDENCE DAY

The 245th birthday of the United States.

7

TANABATA

Seventh day, seventh month: the stars Vega & Altair are at their highest and most visible, bringing the Star Festival to Japan; wishes are written on paper and tied to the trees.

14

BASTILLE DAY

La Fête Nationale of France.

15

ST. SWITHIN'S DAY

*St. Swithin's Day, if thou dost rain,
For forty days it will remain;
St. Swithin's Day, if thou be fair,
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.*

16

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Sacred to Chile.

23

NEPTUNALIA & SALACIA

Ancient Roman festival honoring Neptune, the sea god, and his wife Salacia, goddess of the salty sea.



A summery seaside visit.

25

ST. JAMES'S DAY

Sacred to Spain. Oysters for supper.

26

ST. ANN'S DAY

Ann, mother of Mary: a patron saint of sailors, protector from storms.

29

ST. MARTHA'S DAY

Martha teaches us to engage life and not worry so much about keeping up appearances.

31

LAMMAS EVE

First of the harvest festivals. Tradition would have us bake a loaf of bread with the newly harvested grain for tomorrow's cross quarter day, Lammas, bringing in its way a gentle reminder that summer is waning, autumn approaching. Shakespeare's Juliet was born on Lammas Eve.



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The Dog Days of Summer are a good time to spend at the seashore.

Cover star: "Beach Scene" by Clarice Beckett, oil on canvas, 1932.

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